

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /130 W
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R 071425Z DEC 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2113

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 9723

H PASS CODEL

ACTION STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJ: GROUP AGRICULTURE SCENARIO

REF: MTN GENEVA 9647

1. SUMMARY. KEY DELEGATIONS TOOK A FIRST LOOK AT PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR GROUP AG AND RELATED ASPECTS FOR NTM PARENT GROUP ON DEC 6. SAME GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN DEC 9 TO ALLOW TIME FOR REFLECTION AND FOR SOME OF THEM, NOTABLY JAPAN, TO GET INSTRUCTIONS. NOW SEEMS LIKELY GROUP AG NOT REPEAT NOT LIKELY MEET EARLIER THAN DEC 20 EVEN IF INFORMAL GROUP AGREES AT ITS DEC 9 SESSION. UNCLEAR IF IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO CONVENE NTM PARENT GROUP BEFORE CHRISTMAS. AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED INTENTION MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL WORK PROGRAM AT NEXT GROUP AG MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. PATTERSON CONVENED INFORMAL GROUP OF KEY DELS DEC 6 TO WALK THROUGH THE SCENARIO FOR GROUP AG AND NTM PARENT GROUP AS DEVELOPED BY U.S. AND EC DELS OVER

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PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. PRESENT WERE: EC, US, JAPAN,

CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, YUGOSLAVIA AND HUNGARY. LUYTEN OPENED WITH CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT EXTREME DELICACY OF TEXTS AND DESCRIBED THEM AS "JUST BARELY TOLERABLE" TO BOTH US AND EC; HE ALSO SAID INTENTION WAS TO HAVE CHAIRMAN MAKE AN ORAL STATEMENT INTRODUCING ITEM ON TRIF (SEE BELOW). US AND EC OFFERED TO ATTEMPT EXPLAIN RATIONALE BEHIND AND MEANING OF VARIOUS PHRASES.

3. MOST ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WERE JAPAN AND ARGENTINA WITH LATTER (AMB. MARTINEZ) ATTEMPTING SEVERAL TIMES TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE TEXT AND/OR OPEN UP DIFFICULT PROBLEM AREAS, E.G., HIS SUGGESTION THAT WHENEVER THE WORD "PROCEDURES" OCCURRED, HE THOUGHT IT ESSENTIAL TO SPELL OUT THE S AND D FOR LDC'S ON EACH OCCASION. PATTERSON ATTEMPTED TO DEFLECT THESE MANEUVERS BY ASSURING MARTINEZ THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO ALTER THE AGREEMENT REACHED AND RECORDED BY GROUP AG AT ITS MEETING IN DECEMBER 1975 CONFIRMING PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT ALL THAT WAS BEING DONE BY THESE ADMITTEDLY COMPLEX TEXTS WAS AN EFFORT TO UNBLOCK SOME WORK IN THE NTM PARENT GROUP WHICH REQUIRED A MEETING OF AGROUP AG; PATTERSON SAID WHEN GROUP AG MEETS HE WOULD INTRODUCE THE TOPIC OF REPORTING PROCEDURES BY MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THIS DOES NOT ALTER DOCUMENT AG/4 IN ANY WAY BUT HE INVITES GROUP AG TO AGREE ON ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES WITH RESPECT TO REPORTING ON CONSULTATIONS. MARTINEZ WAS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THIS AND HE SAID HE NEEDED MORE TIME TO CONSIDER. WITH RESPECT TO WORDING OF THE SECTION ON REPORTING PROCEDURES, A CONSENSUS WAS REACHED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS: DELETE THE WORD "TWO" IN THE FIRST POINT IN ORDER TO MAKE THE REPORTING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO PLURILATERAL AS WELL AS BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, AND INSERT THE WORDS "OR PLURILATERAL" IN TWO PLACES IN THE THIRD POINT UNDER REPORTING PROCEDURES AFTER THE WORD "BILATERAL" FOR THE SAME REASON. THERE WAS EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THE PHRASE "AS EXPORTING OR IMPORTING COUNTRIES" IN THE SECOND POINT UNDER REPORTING PROCEDURES; EC ARGUED FOR RETENTION ON GROUNDS IT SIMPLY REPEATS PREVIOUSLY-AGREED LANGUAGE ON QR CONSULTA-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS, BUT SEVERAL REPS POINTED OUT THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS, ESPECIALLY IN A PLURILATERAL CONSULTATION, WHERE IT WOULD BE UNCLEAR WHETHER A PARTICIPANT WAS DOING SO AS AN EXPORTING OR IMPORTING COUNTRY; NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THIS POINT BUT WE THINK THE PHRASE MAY DISAPPEAR AT THE NEXT SESSION (SUGGEST US CAN LIVE WITH EITHER RETENTION OR DELETION).

4. WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED SUMMING-UP ON TRIF, PATTERSON SAID HE WOULD INTRODUCE THIS ITEM BY SAYING THIS QUESTION IS A DELICATE ONE AND SOME DELS CONSIDER IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO TREAT IT AT ALL IN GROUP AG BUT OTHER DELEGATIONS FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SO. NO ONE IS COMPROMISING THEIR WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE DIFFERENCES, HE (PATTERSON) AS CHAIRMAN SUGGESTS....(US-EC TEXT WOULD BE READ OUT AND PLACED ON RECORD). JAPAN PUT A RESERVATION ON PARA 2 BECAUSE IT WAS NOT SURE GOJ CAN AGREE. HE SAID HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THE PROCEDURE REPEAT PROCEDURE BUT HAD DIFFICULTY WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTING THE TRIF IN THE MANNER SUGGESTED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO STANDARDS, ARGENTINE REP WAS MOST DIFFICULT. HE WANTED TO CHANGE THE WORD "APPLICABILITY" TO "APPLICATION," RAISED QUESTION WHETHER WE SHOULD NOT DEFINE MEANING OF "AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS," AND WANTED CONFIRMATION THAT ACCEPTANCE OF GROUP AG TAKING UP THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE DID NOT REPEAL NOT PRECLUDE COUNTRIES FROM INTRODUCING EQUIVALENT WAYS OF DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS. US AND EC BOTH STRESSED THAT PURPOSE WAS PURELY PROCEDURAL AND ONLY OPERATIONAL POINT FOR GROUP AG IS TO CONSIDER FIXING A DATE FOR GROUP AG TO TAKE UP THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE. REPS DID AGREE THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF GROUP AG SHOULD BE CONVENED TO CONSIDER JUST THE STANDARDS MATTER. MOST SEEMED TO FAVOR HAVING THIS MEETING RUN PARALLEL TO THE NEXT STANDARDS SUBGROUP WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MID-MARCH.

6. NO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED ABOUT SECTION OF SCENARIO ON NTMNDWM. WE ARE NOT SURE IF THIS MEANS NO PROBLEMS
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OR IF OTHERS DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS.

7. AS IT WAS EVIDENT SEVERAL REPS WANTED SOME TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE VARIOUS TEXTS, PATTERSON PROPOSED AND GROUP AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM AGAIN AT 3:00 P.M.
DECEMBER 9.

8. PATTERSON ASKED IF DELEGATIONS COULD AGREE THAT THESE PROCEDURAL POINTS WOULD BE THE ONLY ITEMS ON AGENDA OF GROUP AG IF CONSENSUS REACHED ON DEC 9 TO CONVENE GROUP AG PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS. AUSTRALIAN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON "FUTURE BUSINESS" AND HE OFFERED TO GIVE DELEGATIONS A PREVIEW OF ITS PROBABLE CONTENTS, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED TEXT STILL BEING WORKED ON IN CANBERRA. HE SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE

OF AGRICULTURE TO SMALL COUNTRIES LIKE HIS OWN HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON AGRICULTURE, WOULD REFER TO ARRAY OF BARRIERS DISTORTING AUSTRALIA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, AND SUGGEST A PROGRAM OF WORK FOR GROUP AG, NAMELY, TO DIVIDE THE WORK INTO (A) A DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AN EXERCISE TO BE UNDER-TAKEN IN COORDINATION WITH THE WORK ON OTHER MTN GROUPS, AND (B) A TRANSLATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES INTO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS.

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H PASS CODEL

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HE SAID SUBGROUPS GRANS/MEAT/DAIRY SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED BECAUSE THEY COULD PROVIDE THE INPUT FOR THE DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS PHASE OF THE WORK. HE SAID THE WORK UNDER POINT B SHOULD DEAL WITH ACCESS, PRICE SUPPORT POLICIES, AND EXPORT AIDS. AUSTRALIAN REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT A STATEMENT OF THIS KIND WOULD BE NEEDED BECAUSE THE PROCEDURAL UNBLOCKING IN THE MTN GROUPS WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE US-EC SCENARIO WOULD NOT IN FACT ADVANCE SUBSTANTIVE WORK ON AGRICULTURE (WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF WORK ON STANDARDS) BECAUSE ONE GROUP OF COUNTRIES MAINTAINS THAT MTN GROUPS DEAL ONLY WITH MATTERS OTHER THAN AGRICULTURE.

AUSTRALIAN REP SAID IT WAS NOT ESSENTIAL IN HIS VIEW THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS RESPOND IMMEDIATELY IN GROUP AG TO THE STATEMENT HE EXPECTED TO MAKE, BUT THOSE WHO CAN SHOULD FEEL FREE TO DO SO AND THOSE WHO CAN'T OBVIOUSLY CAN'T. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE REACTION IN THE INFORMAL MEETING TO THIS DECLARATION. (AUSTRALIAN DEL PROMISED TO GIVE US A COPY WHEN DRAFTING COMPLETED IN CANBERRA.)

9. COMMENT. AS WILL BE EVIDENT FROM FOREGOING REPORT,
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THERE ARE NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES TO BE IRONED OUT AND WE ARE NOT AT THE MOMENT VERY CONFIDENT THAT EVERYTHING WILL FLY. JAPAN HAS PRIVATELY SAID IT HAS SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH TRIF AND PERHAPS THAT ITEM MAY DISAPPEAR (WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DON'T LIKE THE TRIF ITEM EITHER SO AFR AS SUBSTANCE IS CONCERNED AND ONLY FOUND OURSELVES ENSNARED IN IT BY THE EC AGRICULTURE AUTONOMY PLOY). AMB MARTINEZ LIKELY TO MUDDY WATERS ON BEHALF OF LDC'S. AND THEN THERE IS THE RICH FIELD OF POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO THE AUSTRALIAN DECLARATION AND NOTABLY THE REFERENCE TO COOPERATION AMONG GROUPS WHICH IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO PRODUCE A REACTION AND WHICH MAY REQUIRE US IN TURN TO TAKE THE FLOOR. EVEN IF THINGS GO WELL IN DEC 9 INFORMAL MEETING, IT LOOKS INCREASINGLY LIKE DEC 20 WILL BE EARLIEST (AND INDEED LATEST) DATE GROUP AG COULD BE CONVENED BEFORE CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR BREAK. IF SO, IT MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE TO HAVE THE NTM PARENT GROUP MEET BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, ALTHOUGH WE FOR OUR PART WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO ANY TIME AFTER GROUP AG WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS.WALKER

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